

not be easily available. A misleading or controversial or partial register might create more problems than it would solve.

Several immediate measures might be considered. First, the government could establish or sponsor a technical working group to help resolve the methodological problems involved in defining arms transfers. Its tasks would include an examination of the prospects for resolving the dual military/civilian uses of certain products and the feasibility of developing a standard reporting instrument.

Second, a technical working group might clarify and seek to resolve the argument that there is a need to protect the confidentiality of commercial companies for competitive reasons with a view to identifying the legitimate needs of confidentiality and the prospects for bringing these needs in line with the requirements for an arms control register.

Third, the government could consider adopting a performance standard such that Canadian national practice would be on a par with that of other western states which have taken the lead in compiling and publishing data on national arms transfers.

Fourth, the government should more fully explain why it declines to publicize the names of the countries which are prohibited from receiving Canadian arms exports on human rights grounds. Since public pressure is one means to persuade these countries to improve their human rights records, it is not clear why the government should wish to keep secret the names of the countries which it judges to have human rights records sufficiently poor as to warrant the curtailment of arms exports.

Fifth, and depending on the response to the above recommendations, the government might wish to explore the opportunities for further action at the UN, and in particular at UNSSOD III in 1988.

Any Canadian initiative at the UN would require support from a wide variety of sources if it were to be successful. As preparation for this effort or as a separate measure in and of itself the government might consider beginning by broaching the idea to different countries with a view to eliciting their support or at least their involvement in consultations on the question.